(c) Government of West Bengal had set up the Committee in the year 1978.

Dangers from Low level Radiation

2781. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the dangers from low level radiation as has emerged from recent studies carried out in Japan ;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the detailed controlled studies carried out by Dr. Robert Rinehart at Sen Diego State University, California, USA which clearly establish that mutational changes brought about in INA were passed on to the off-springs and subsequent generations; and

(c) whether similar studies have been conducted in India ever since food irradiation was introduced on experimental and now commercial basis for food exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the press reports relating to the studies conducted in Japan. There are, however, no sign-ificant health effects demonstrable at low exposures to radiation. There is no direct evidence to show that low doses of radiation can bring about hereditary defects in human beings.

(c) No, Sir,

Decentralisation of Planning at District Level

2782. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPTARA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have given directive to States to take steps to make decentralised planning at district level for purpose of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the planning machinery at district level ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) It is the intention of the Planning Commission to give high priority to District Planning in the preparation of the Eighth Plan. States were requested by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission vide his letter dated 30th March, 1988 to start the exercise for the formulation of the District Plans so that it may be possible for the State to build up its Five Year Plan on the basis of District Five Year Plans.

(c) There is a scheme of strengthening of the planning machinery at the State and district levels. Financial assistance upto 2/3rd of the expenditure incurred during the year is reimbursed to the States by the Centre for State level planning machinery and on 50:50 basis in respect of district level planning machinery.

Intelligence Base in Australia

2783. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Statesman, Calcutta in its issue of

April 18, 1988 a top secret intelligence base in being set up in Australia which will be capable of monitoring military communication over the Indian Ocean particularly those emanating from India and Indonesia; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the report. On October 28, 1987 the Acting Minister of Defence in Australia announced that the site for the proposed Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station had been selected near Geraldton (Western Australia). Once established, the facility would be able to monitor the communications over the Indian Ocean. Though there have been speculative reports there is no definite information on the likely functions of the facility.

Faster Growth of Micro-Electronics Industry

2784. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted for achieving a faster growth of micro-electronics industry;

(b) if so, what are the findings and recommendations; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken for implementing such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by the Indo-US Joint Scientific Committee on Micro-electronics (JSC) are as follows:

That India put in place a plan that will allow a production of Rs. 1000 crores/year of micro-electronics components by 1995 and Rs. 2000 crores/year by 2001:

That the proposed growth of micro-electronics industry occur in a fully competitive environment where proper combination of accountability and authority will assure a viable thrust for India in international electronics arena.

That the micro-electronics industry have world-class quality at internationally competitive prices as its primary goal.

That the required cumulative investments of abouts Rs. 2000 crore by 1995 and Rs, 4000 crores by 2001 come from a variety of sources which include banks private sources and foreign participation. Meaningful foreign participation would require the creation of business climate competitive with other Asia-Pacific countries.

That the proposed expansion of micro-electronics occur in private sector with no regulation and no protection from the Government.

That the micro-electronics expansion be driven by market pull from electronic equipments manufacture. Vertical integration within system houses should be considered.

That the resource limitations can be handled conveniently by careful selection of electronics and micro-electronics industry e.g. consumer electronics, electronics for communication etc. by focusing on the end product rather than micro-electronics technology per se.